

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A speech recognition apparatus comprising:
- an audio cancellation module, including:
 - an audio input for receiving an audio signal from a microphone that includes a speech signal and background noise;
 - at least two audio inputs for receiving at least two audio source signals from respective independent audio sources that primarily does not include speech represented by said speech signal, both the at least two audio source signals contribute to background noise of the audio signal input to the microphone from being within a proximity of the sensitivity range of the microphone,
 - wherein the audio cancellation module being operative to produce a speech signal by canceling the at least two audio source signals from the audio signal that are received by the microphone so as to leave a remainder of the audio signal received by the microphone that comprises primarily the speech signal; and
 - a speech recognizer for recognizing at least part of the speech signal.
2. (Previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a controller for, in response to a spoken instruction from a user which is recognized by the speech recognizer, issuing at least one command message to a further apparatus via a control communication network.
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3. (Original) A speech recognition apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the controller is operative to issue the at least one command message according to remote control messages associated with the further apparatus.

4. (Previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the two audio source signals is received via an audio communication network from an audio source unit that is external to the speech recognition apparatus.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) A speech recognition apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the speech recognition apparatus includes at least one audio input for receiving an external audio source signal from an audio source unit that is external to the speech recognition apparatus; the audio source signal from the audio source unit that is external to the speech recognition apparatus being received substantially for the purpose of canceling the external audio source signal from the microphone signal.

7. (Currently Amended) A consumer electronics system comprising:

at least two **independent** audio source apparatuses;

an audio cancellation module, including:

an audio input for receiving an audio signal from a microphone **that**

includes a speech signal and background noise; and

at least two audio inputs for receiving independent audio source signals from respective ones of the audio source apparatuses, at least two of the independent audio source signals contribute to the audio signal from the microphone by a proximity of the at least two audio source signals to within a sensitivity range of the microphone;

the audio cancellation module being operative to produce a speech signal by canceling the at least two independent audio source signals from the audio signal from the microphone so eliminate the background noise and to leave a remainder of the audio signal received by the microphone that comprises primarily the speech signal;

and

a speech recognizer for recognizing at least part of the speech signal that remains.

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8. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a control unit for, in response to a spoken instruction from a user that is recognized by the speech recognizer, issuing at least one command message to an apparatus in the system via a communication network.

9. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein at least one of the independent audio source signals is received via the communication network from the associated audio source apparatus.

10. (Previously presented) A system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the audio cancellation module is located in an apparatus of the system, where the apparatus

includes at least one audio input for receiving an audio source signal from an audio source apparatus external to the apparatus; the audio signal being received substantially for the purpose of canceling this audio signal from the microphone signal.

11. (Currently Amended) An audio cancellation module, comprising:

an audio input for receiving an audio signal from a microphone that includes a speech signal and background noise; and

at least two audio inputs for receiving audio source signals from respective independent audio sources, both the at least two audio source signals contribute to the audio ~~signal~~ signal from the microphone from being within a proximity to a sensitivity range of the microphone;

the audio cancellation module being operative to produce a speech signal by canceling the at least two audio source signals from the audio signal received from the microphone so as to leave a remainder of the audio signal received by the microphone that comprises primarily the speech signal.